



Rolla Middle School

District: Rolla District 31

Enrollment: 931

Grade Range: 5-7



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The mission of the Rolla School District is to provide, in partnership with the community, the best educational opportunities possible for our students through a commitment to excellence in personnel, facilities, curriculum and instruction.

Rolla Middle School is located in a picturesque setting in the southeast corner of Rolla, Missouri, a rural town of 15,000 people. Rolla is an extremely diverse community because the University of Missouri-Rolla draws both students and faculty from around the globe. Seven languages are represented within the student population of Rolla Middle School. Twenty-five state and federal agencies, including the United States Geological Survey and the headquarters of the Mark Twain National Forest, are located in Rolla. The school draws a portion of its student population from military personnel stationed at Fort Leonard Wood. These community factors contribute to a wide base of resources, experiences, and opportunities for RMS students.

A “Students First” Philosophy

Rolla Middle School staff, faculty, and administration care about students. This is evident in every aspect of RMS: physical appearance, curricular offerings, extracurricular activities, and climate. The entire school community understands that the first priority is the success and safety of every student.

Putting students first is the reason behind the development of the varied programs and numerous opportunities available to all 931 RMS students. RMS teachers ensure that students have a strong foundation by infusing basic skills into every facet of the curriculum. Using the Missouri process and content standards as a basis for lessons ensures that classes are informative and productive. Teachers constantly check, evaluate, and upgrade the curriculum using the electronic alignment tool.

“BEST PRACTICE IN ACTION...”

- ***O.A.S.I.S. for Seventh Graders*** – O.A.S.I.S. (Organized Activities for Student Individual Success) is a time following the lunch period when seventh grade students may choose from a variety of activities ranging from video production to kite flying, from cross-stitch to wrestling, and from writing poetry to building rockets.
- ***RMS Student Art Gallery*** – Student talent is celebrated and cherished at RMS. The RMS Student Art Gallery displays student artwork that has been purchased and framed.
- ***Acceptance Awareness Day*** – A culmination of class lessons about people with special needs allows students to experience the unique challenges that others face.

Curricular options at RMS encompass everything from tutoring alternatives for students who are experiencing difficulty to Odyssey of the Mind competitions for students who crave enrichment. Students are challenged to be active participants in thematic units that frequently culminate in entire days dedicated to hands-on learning activities related to the theme. Every child in the entire student body, even the most seriously challenged, is an integral part of Rolla Middle School and participates in regular classroom procedures, all special trips and programs, and some regular classes. Resource teachers work closely with classroom teachers to provide necessary accommodations. A+ students and National Honor Society Students from Rolla High School provide tutoring for students who need assistance, and the Student Assistance Team meets weekly.

Extracurricular activities at RMS are an extension of both the school day and the learning process. RMS activities offer students the chance to write and deliver announcements at school and on the local radio station, plan and organize projects, work as team members, advertise upcoming events, write news articles, make business contacts in person and on the telephone, perform for audiences, settle disputes, coordinate schedules, create web pages, sharpen math skills, do science experiments, create art, and learn governmental procedures.

Learning at RMS takes place in an organized, friendly, high-energy climate. Students interact with each other, staff, and faculty in a positive manner. They realize that rules are made for the safety and comfort of all, and the structured environment sets parameters for student behaviors and for staff to positively support good behaviors that foster increased time on task in the classroom.

Character Education – “Minds Under Construction”

Character education is a pervasive element of all aspects of Rolla Middle School. It allows teachers to infuse creativity into “life lessons.” The 2003-2004 theme, “Minds Under Construction,” is seen in assemblies, artwork, the Accelerated Reader program, and even class projects. Kids with Character highlights students who have shown the traits of responsibility, perseverance, respect, or acceptance by displaying their names on a bulletin board, announcing their names during morning announcements, and giving them special recognition during Character Education Programs.

“WORDS OF WISDOM”

- **“Part of the mission of RMS is to give every student the chance to avail himself/herself of every opportunity to become an educated, well-informed, and valuable member of society.”**
- **“At this point, the most effective feature of the RMS curriculum is the development of common assessments and the time set aside for the evaluation of each assessment.”**

RMS students have numerous opportunities to be involved in the community and to gain an understanding of democratic values. Through many service projects, they have supported the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, the Guatemalan Rain Forest, and St. Jude’s Children’s Ranch. Patriot Day and Veterans Day assemblies honor local emergency and armed forces personnel. Through the Student Forum election process, students experience the democratic process.

Dynamic Leadership

The dynamic staff at RMS is dedicated to achieving excellence. Staff members are actively involved in many professional and educational organizations, both as members and as leaders. RMS staff members have filled leadership positions in the Missouri Middle School Association since its inception. They are involved in the development of Missouri’s model curriculum and have worked on every aspect of the development of the MAP. Within the school structure, each teacher is a member of both a horizontal and a vertical curriculum team. This allows all teachers to be part of core groups of peers to help them stay abreast of professional literature, discuss and articulate curriculum, and to promote enthusiasm for the teaching profession.

At Rolla Middle School, the entire student is educated and celebrated. The school community is actively engaged in providing opportunities for students to grow and mature. Ideas and opinions are welcome. Change is continual. People are valued.